



Golden Sands
Resource Conservation
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EDR for Japanese Knotweed in the Tomorrow River Watershed - 2023 Final Report
Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP)
12/19/2023

Grant #AIRR26521

Prepared by: Jacob Fluor, Regional Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator

This report summarizes activities performed under AIRR26521 grant in 2023. Activities are separated into sections based on the goals in the grant application. All tasks occurred on schedule and all deliverables have been met for this project.

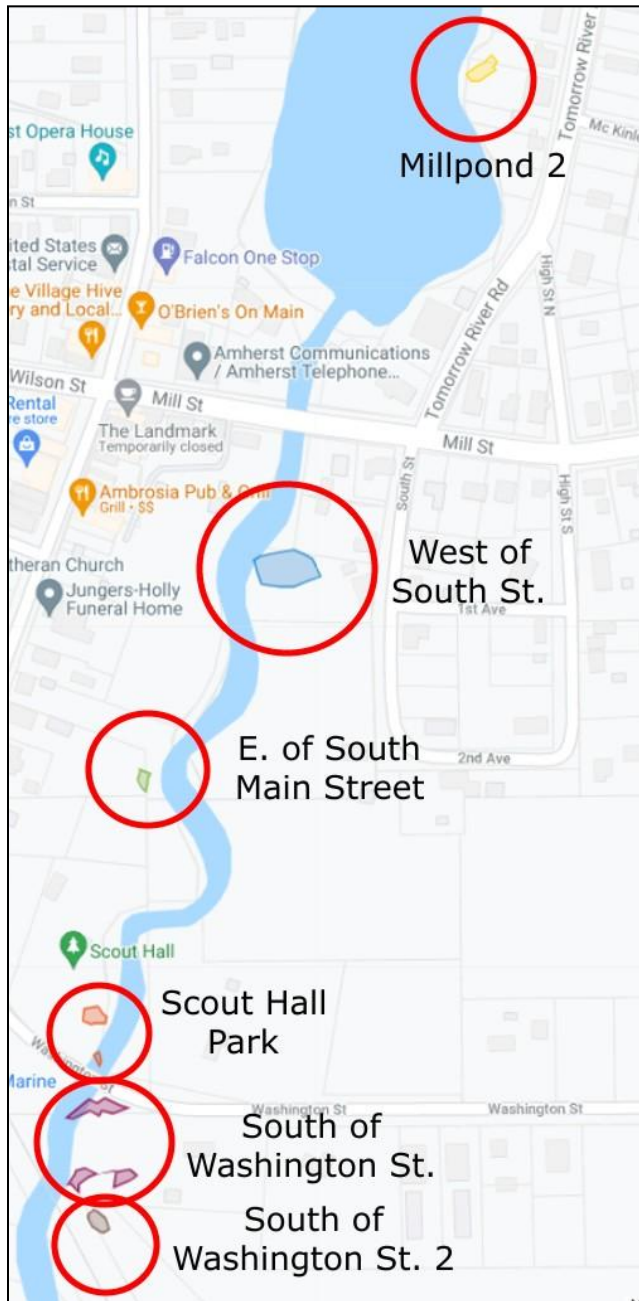
GOAL 1: Survey

During the early summer of 2023, all knotweed patches were surveyed for the third year. GPS points from last year were used to survey the same areas. A quadrat 2.9 square feet in area was used to sample knotweed stem density from multiple, random locations in each patch. Using this data, average stem density was calculated for each patch. Also, comparing data from this year and last year, the decrease in stem density was calculated as well. See table and map below.

Table 1: Knotweed acreage and density measures.

Patch Name	Entire Patch Area (ac)	2021 Average Density (# stems/sq ft)	2022 Average Density (# stems/sq ft)	2023 Average Density (# stems/sq ft)	Density Decrease from 2021-2023 (%)
Pavelski Road	0.019	1.03	0.21	.15	85.44%
SE of County Hwy-SS	0.009	2.24	0.1	.1	94.64%
Millpond 2	0.049	0.46	0.1	.2	78.26%
West of South St.	0.199	2.24	0.52	.34	84.82%
E. of South Main St.	0.02	1.38	NA - No permission this year	NA - No permission this year	NA - No permission this year
Scout Hall Park	0.046	3.51	1.15	.95	72.93%
South of Washington St.	0.127	1.55	0.17	.14	90.97%
S. of Washington St. 2	0.035	1.31	0.42	.4	69.47
Total Acreage	0.504				

Map 1: Locations of knotweed.



Map 2: Locations of knotweed.



Patch area and density data are embedded in this report file. A KMZ file with patch locations was uploaded to SWIMS last year for reference with the file name “2021 Surveyed Patch Sizes (updated).”

GOAL 2: Control and Monitor

All knotweed patches except the one titled “E. of South Main Street” were cut for the third year in early June of 2023. The E. of South Main Street patch was not cut this year due to the landowner wanting to turn that portion into a part of the lawn.

During the first cutting, fresh cut stems were left where they fell unless they were in close proximity to any water. In that situation, the stems were collected and piled up away from the water to keep them from getting into the waterway.

All knotweed was cut again in August. During this cutting, we also opted to leave most of the cut plant material where it fell. In areas very near standing or running water, knotweed stems were collected and piled in an area farther from the water.

During both cuttings, we were very careful to prevent any cut plant material from entering the Tomorrow River and potentially traveling downstream and resprouting.

Knotweed patches were sprayed with herbicide in September. An herbicide mix consisting of 8%/10.5 oz per gallon Aquaneat (aquatic-approved glyphosate), Plex-Mate (aquatic-approved surfactant), and blue dye was applied via backpack sprayer. Aquatic Plant Management Herbicide Treatment Record forms were submitted through the SWIMS APM portal. Treatment areas were posted with Landscape Pesticide Application signs.

GOAL 3: Train Landowners

Landowners have been provided with density information about the knotweed infestation on their properties and how it has improved over time. Landowners have also received packets with information from many sources to assist the landowner to continue control and restore the infested areas in the future. CWIP will also be available to landowners for technical assistance with any control or restoration they may need help with in the future!

GOAL 4: Outreach

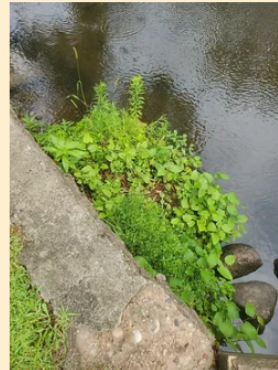
The CWIP website includes information about the EDR project, which will stay on the website, at cwipartnership.org/control-projects. See screenshot below.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED REMOVAL IN TOMORROW RIVER WATERSHED

CWIP is has finished working on a three-year project (2021-2023) to control Japanese knotweed growing along water bodies in the Tomorrow River watershed. Much of the knotweed is located next to the Tomorrow River in the Village of Amherst. Plants were cut multiple times during the growing season and treated with aquatic-approved herbicide in late summer/early fall.



Japanese knotweed control, 2021




These two images are of Japanese knotweed in Amherst at Scout Hall Park. These photos were taken in early summer 2023. The left image is the same location as the images above from 2021 and they look so much better! The knotweed has now been treated in 2021, 2022, and 2023. CWIP's role in this project is complete and the landowners are much better equipped to handle the knotweed now.

The CWIP Facebook page remains active with 770 followers. We make posts about invasive plant issues, including three posts in 2023 focusing on Japanese knotweed. See screenshots and links below:

Social Media Post #1

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership - CWIP
Published by Jacob Fluor · July 5

This year is our third and final year controlling invasive knotweed in Amherst, WI along the Tomorrow River. The first cutting was done last month, and will follow with one more cutting to reduce the plant's energy. After that, the plants will be treated. This process has been very effective so far, but knotweed is a very resilient plant and it will take many more years before it's eradicated, but the work is worth it! Knotweed can be very destructive to foundation of homes and sidewalks/driveways.



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Social Media Post #2

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership - CWIP
Published by Jacob Fluor · November 27 at 5:00 PM

We are officially wrapping up our knotweed control project at public and private properties in Amherst, WI! The plants were treated in September for the final time. This photo from June 2023 shows a patch in Scout Hall Park in Amherst which used to be all knotweed, and now it is small knotweed and some other plants are starting to come in. Treatment was very successful but work will need to be continued before this aggressive plant is eradicated from the area.

Visit cwipartnership.org to learn more about invasive species!



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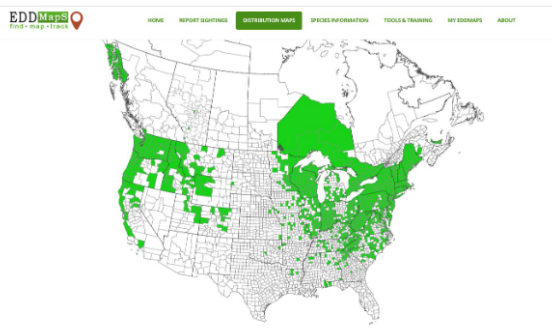
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Social Media Post #3

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership - CWIP
Published by Jacob Fluor · November 30 at 12:50 PM

EddMapS is a fantastic tool for reporting invasive species. It is an app you can have on your phone that reports the location, species, and other information to the database which is publicly accessible. It's used by natural resources professionals and lots of other folks. It's very useful for reporting newer and emerging species in your area so people know the range of some invasive plants, like invasive knotweed!

Below is a photo of an example of EddMapS data and how it looks like when there's plenty of data for distribution maps. You can explore here: www.eddmaps.org.



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Social Media Post #4

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership - CWIP
Published by Jacob Fluor · December 4 at 6:00 PM

Invasive knotweed is a very resilient plant. It can grow in many areas, it can grow from just a small chunk of the stem, and it can take 3 or more years to completely kill the plants and the root system!

The Renz Weed Science Lab is a great tool for invasive species information, and you can find their factsheets here: <https://renzweedsience.cals.wisc.edu/.../invasive.../>

Visit www.cwipartnership.org to learn more about invasive species and the work we do!



RENZWEEDSCIENCE.CALS.WISC.EDU

Invasive Plant Management Factsheets – Renz Weed Science

The Renz Lab has created a series of factsheets discussing the identification and control of many common invasive plant species problematic to natural areas. Mechanical, cultural, and chemical control...

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In August of 2023, a press release was created and emailed out to various local news contacts. This press release was sent to the same set of contacts as last year and the contents of the press release were the same as well.

The sign put up in 2021 that highlights the project is still at Amherst's Scout Hall park, next to a patch of knotweed that is being controlled. This sign was cleaned off at the beginning of the year and was checked every time we were in Amherst to make sure it's still available for the public to read. This sign will likely be replaced next year by CWIP if the City of Amherst would like a new one.



Conclusion:

The third year of this grant project is over and we have completed all scheduled tasks. We anticipate that all of the landowners will continue the project work for the future of their infestations. We look forward to future projects to benefit the Tomorrow River Watershed in Portage County.

For any questions about this project, please contact:

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